

Approved September 21, 2011



## City of Scottsdale PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Approved Work Study Session Summary Minutes

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2011  
Eldorado Community Center, Room 5  
2311 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### Present:

Chairman Stan Koczka  
Vice Chair Harry Schlegelmilch  
Commissioner Robert Frost  
Commissioner Anne Wurth (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)

Commissioner Gene Dafoe  
Commissioner Jeanne Alspaugh  
Commissioner James Duchene (arrived at  
4:06 p.m.)

#### Staff Present:

Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director  
Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Hugh McGill, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager

Sergeant Jeromie Omeara, Scottsdale Police  
Department  
Jennifer Pollock, Assistant City Attorney  
Eric Anderson, Assistant City Attorney  
Michael Ruggiero, Technology Specialist  
Lorelei Oien, Administrative Secretary

#### 1. SKATE PARK TRENDS

Sgt. Omeara presented the Commission with crime statistics related to the skate parks at McDowell Mountain Ranch and Eldorado, what those calls were for, and when the majority of calls occur. Sgt. Omeara went on to report that, with the budget cuts, there is no longer a dedicated patrol unit for the skate parks, so patrol is limited to whether or not the officers on duty are on other calls. Sgt. Omeara also reported that considering the number of users at the skate parks, the nature of the calls are relatively minor in scope.

Ms. Erickson provided operational information on the skate parks.

A discussion ensued wherein the Commission expressed and queried:

- Concern for the safety kids at the skate parks.
- The City's liability regarding the safety of the parks. Mr. Anderson responded that the city's legal responsibilities for a skate park are the same as they are for the regular parks; generally,

the City is not a guarantor of safety just like having a Police Department is not a guarantor of no crime.

- Would a letter of recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Chief of Police result in additional police surveillance of the skate park facilities. Sgt. Omeara's response was that he would need to have direct intelligence of what is going on with a time frame to move a unit to the skate park because to do so means he has to take a unit away from other priorities, i.e., the Downtown area, rising copper thefts.
- Comparison of calls received for skate parks versus calls for playgrounds/parks. Sgt. Omeara responded that there are more calls for the skate parks, with the exception of Scottsdale Sports Complex, and attributed this, in part at least, to the volume of participants.
- The information presented today should be considered when planning future parks and playgrounds, that maybe adding more skate parks is not a good idea.
- Since most of the trouble occurs in the evenings, closing the skate parks at 6:00 p.m. should be considered.
- Staff the skate park. However, staff does not have the ability to enforce laws, write tickets, make arrests, etc.
- Closing the skate park could result in moving the teens elsewhere where they could get into/create more trouble.
- Have a user i.d. card.
- How many complaints, separate from the police, has staff received? Ms. Cameron responded no more than six, which might include someone breaking an arm, breaking up a confrontation, asking bicyclists to leave the skate park.
- How many complaints has staff received from the citizenry after an incident has occurred? Ms. Erickson responded that there were two, and they had occurred after the park had closed.
- Having a situation that is unsavory is not good for the City's image or reputation.
- Continue dialogue with police, staff, and parent groups.

## 2. 2011/2012 AGENDA FOCUS

Discussion regarding 2011/2012 commission meeting agenda items and focus, to include:

- Dog parks
- Time limits on staff presentations

## 3. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorelei Oien  
Administrative Secretary

Meets established criteria,  
Janice M. Cameron  
Director, Parks and Recreation

Please note: These are summary action minutes only; to listen to this meeting in its entirety, please go to [www.scottsdaleaz.gov](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), click on Mayor, Council, and Government, click on Boards and Commissions, click on Parks and Recreation Commission, click on Meeting Audios/Videos, go to Archived Videos (at the bottom) and click on the meeting you wish to listen to. Computers are available for public use at Scottsdale's public libraries.

